Oldman River Dam

OLDMAN RIVER DAM
LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS
TO THE
MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT

JUNE 30, 1988

Box 100
LUNDBRECK, Alberta
TOK 1HO

June 30, 1988

Honourable Ken Kowalski
Minister of the Environment
132 Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta

Dear Mr. Minister:

The Oldman River Dam Local Advisory Committee (L.A.C.) is pleased to present to you, for your consideration, the following report and recommendations on local issues resulting from the construction of the Oldman River Dam.

This interim report contains recommendations that have been prepared and accepted by the L.A.C. Further recommendations on outstanding issues will follow at a later date.

The cooperation and assistance of persons in your Department is greatly appreciated.

The L.A.C. looks forward to meeting with you, at your convenience, to discuss this report and other issues that may arise regarding the project.

Sincerely,

Hilton R. Pharis

Hilton Pharis
Chairman
Oldman River Dam
Local Advisory Committee

TABLE OF CONTENTS

BACKGROUND 1

The Local Advisory Committee 1

The L.A.C. Activities 2

RECOMMENDATIONS 3

I. Road Network and Related Activities 3

II. Agriculture 4

III. Historical Resources 4

IV. Recreation 5

V. Wildlife 6

VI. Fisheries 7

APPENDIX A Oldman River Dam Citizens' Committees

BACKGROUND

The Local Advisory Committee

The Oldman River Dam Local Advisory Committee was appointed by the Minister of Environment on January 9, 1985 to act in an advisory role to the Department of the Environment on:

"regional and Municipal District interests and area farming matters;

the relocation of roads and location of reservoir crossings;

local fish and wildlife concerns;

recreational opportunities;

the development of a Reservoir Land Use Plan;

and other matters which may be referred to the advisory committee by the Minister of the Environment from time to time relating directly to the construction of the Oldman River Dam". (Ministerial Order)

The members of the Local Advisory Committee (L.A.C.) appointed in 1985 were:

Hilton Pharis	Chairman, rancher and Reeve, M.D. of Pincher Creek
Howard Davis	Rancher and M.D. of Pincher Creek Councillor
Ken Lewis	Local businessman
George Mowat	Local rancher
Dennis Olson	Teacher and member of the Willow Valley Trophy Club
Eldon Erickson	Tradesman and Village of Cowley Councillor
Jeff Higa	Pharmacist and Town of Pincher Creek Councillor

Fred Bradley, M.L.A. for Pincher Creek/Crowsnest is also a member of the L.A.C. Since the appointment of the L.A.C., Jeff Higa has moved from the area and Terry McMaster was recently named to replace him as the representative for the Town of Pincher Creek.

The L.A.C. Activities

The activities of the committee over the past three and a half years have involved:

- approximately 27 regular meetings, several of which included tours, delegations from local groups and individuals, and open sessions on specific aspects of the project;
- two major open houses and a booth at the Pincher Creek and District Trade Fair;
- representation on the six Subcommittees, set up to provide detailed local input into each component of the mitigation program. (Please see Appendix A for chart of citizens' committees.)

An ongoing commitment of the L.A.C. has also been to meet and discuss the project on an informal basis with those who have a local or regional interest.

Government staff, project representatives, and private consultants have acted as resource people to both the L.A.C. and the component subcommittees. The many draft reports have been reviewed by the appropriate committees to ensure that the local input has been incorporated into the content.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The members of the L.A.C. have chosen to organize the recommendations in order to reflect the status of each activity at the time of submission of this report. In most cases each mitigation component section contains:

A. L.A.C. endorsement of activities undertaken by the project

B. Recommendations of the L.A.C. for activities to be initiated by the project.

C. Identification of issues requiring more information prior to making further recommendations.

All recommendations on the mitigation components are based on:

- the information contained in the reports prepared by the project
- discussions with resource people
- the advice from the component Subcommittees.

I. ROAD NETWORK AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

A. The L.A.C. endorses:

The construction of the ring road around the reservoir as agreed to by the Minister and the M.D. Council at the January 28, 1988 meeting.

B. The L.A.C. recommends that:

1. Maximum opportunities should be made available for local contractors and for local employment in the clearing of trees and brush from the reservoir during the winter of 1988/89. The results of this process should be evaluated and adjustments made, if necessary, for next year's (1989/90) contracts. Care should be taken to minimize erosion and the negative effects of clearing on wildlife.

2. The Departments of Environment and Transportation and Utilities should reach a formal agreement to pave the road network by 1991.

II. AGRICULTURE

A. The L.A.C. endorses:

The land classification and feasibility study which has been completed by Alberta Agriculture and is available for the M.D. of Pincher Creek and local farmers to use in their future planning.

B. The L.A.C. recommends that:

1. An assured allocation of water be assigned for irrigation development within the Municipality. The details of an agreement should be negotiated between the M.D. and the Minister of Environment.

2. Written commitment should be made to the Oldman River Threshing and Historic Equipment Society by the project for approximately 81 acres of crown land at the north end of the former Glass property, which includes the original farmstead.

3. The cost of moving the following historic buildings to the above mentioned location be covered by the project - the Godsal ranch house; Maloff's big barn; and Welsch's house. Stevick's shop and the quonsets from the former Gifford property should be made available to the Oldman River Threshing and Historic Equipment Society.

III. HISTORICAL RESOURCES

A. The L.A.C. endorses that:

1. The Paleontological component does not require any mitigative measures at this stage of the project. The shoreline of the reservoir will be monitored for features of Paleontological significance for the indefinite future by Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism, through the Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology.

2. The written documentation of the Historical period, as required by Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism, be completed by 1990.

3. The Verigin barn be moved to the Pincher Creek Museum.

B. The L.A.C. recommends that:

1. A record of the historical and natural history of the area should be kept through videotaping as well as written documentation.

2. An adequate Interpretive Centre in the vicinity of the dam is essential. The size of the building and exact location is still under investigation. The Interpretive Centre should properly display videos of the dam construction and the historical, natural and cultural heritage of the valley. It should also provide adequate space to display significant artifacts recovered during the archaeological investigations.

C. The L.A.C. will make recommendations when more information is received regarding:

1. The results from the 50 archaeological digs being undertaken during the summer of 1988. Recommendations will follow for the 1989 season.

2. The feasibility of preserving the Rener's stone house.

IV. RECREATION

A. The L.A.C. endorses that:

1. Alberta Environment will provide boat launching and ancillary facilities on the reservoir and a recreational development in the vicinity of the dam. The facilities will be a part of the mitigation development to compensate for recreational opportunities displaced by the reservoir.

2. Three fisheries access points, each to include small boat access facilities and parking area, will be developed as part of the project.

B. The L.A.C. recommends that:

1. A major recreational development be constructed below the dam.
2. The Ministers of Environment and Recreation and Parks undertake a coordinated approach to the recreational development of the reservoir and define the roles, responsibilities and funding commitments of each department.
3. Fisheries access points to include small boat access should be constructed around the reservoir. In addition, existing improved roads running to the reservoir should be considered as potential access points.
4. The utilities at the construction campsite, including the access road and bridge, be retained to supplement the major recreational development below the dam.

C. The L.A.C. will make recommendations:

After further study of the major recreation sites with regard to maximizing utilization and safety.

V. WILDLIFE

A. The L.A.C. supports that:

1. Potential mitigation projects were prioritized on the basis of their importance to the biological integrity of the mitigation plan.
2. Land requirements for essential and high priority mitigation projects are now identified.

3. A supply of trees, a process commenced last year, is continuing to be established, through the collection of cuttings and seed from native trees and shrubs and the transplanting of plants from the reservoir.

4. Some areas are now being fenced to protect the vegetation established for recreational and wildlife habitat sites from grazing.

B. The L.A.C. recommends:

The early implementation of a few wildlife habitat projects, to be monitored for their effectiveness. Further projects incorporating successful techniques should then be established around the reservoir.

C. The L.A.C. will make recommendations:

When more information is available following the completion of the final Wildlife Mitigation Report.

VI. FISHERIES

A. The L.A.C. endorses the Fisheries Plan including:

1. Three pilot projects for fisheries enhancement constructed in an Intensive Study Area on the Crowsnest River.

2. Stream enhancement of primary productivity undertaken in a section of the Castle River.

B. The L.A.C. recommends that:

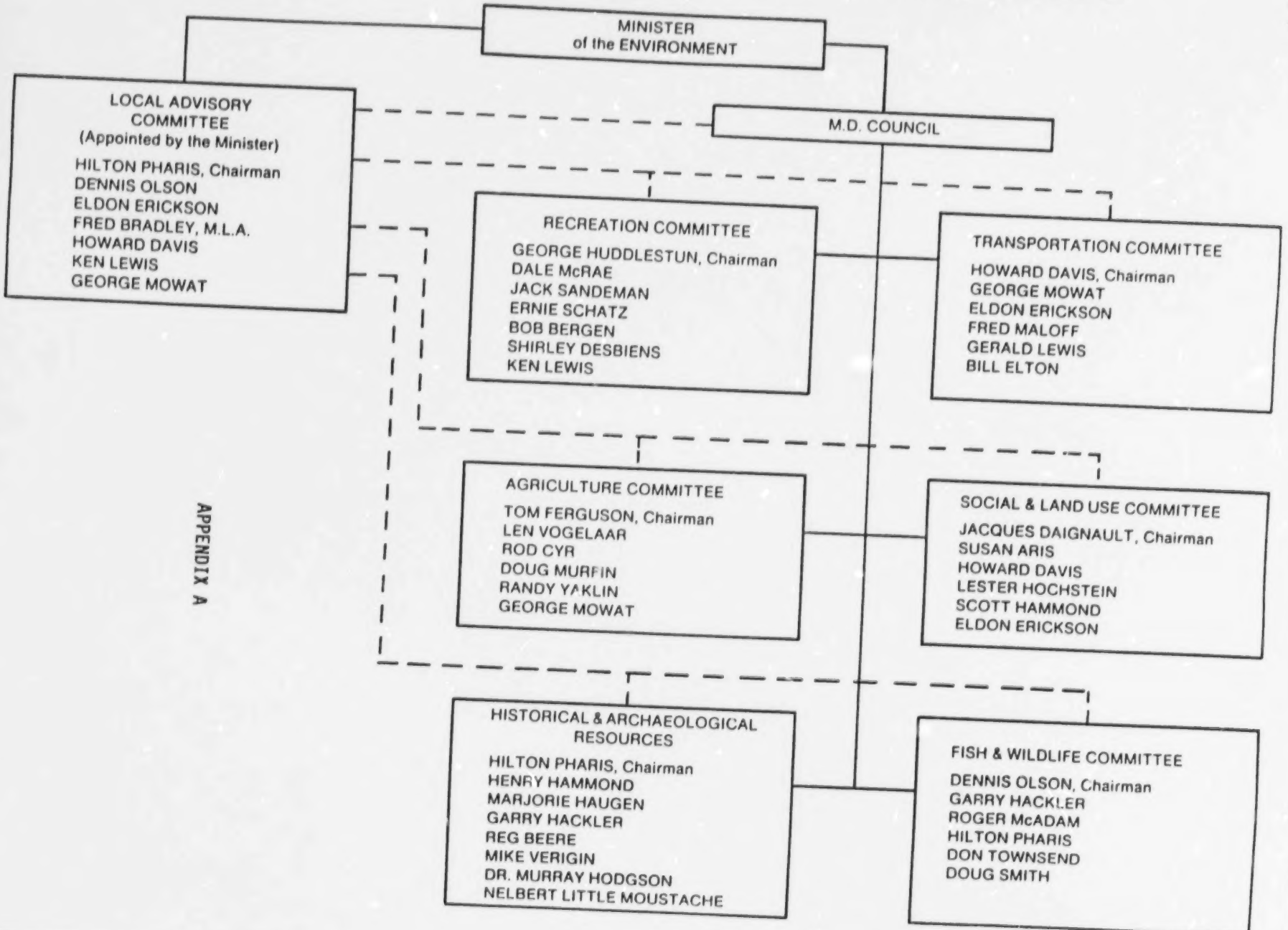
Alberta Environment work closely with the Fisheries Subcommittee in its implementation and evaluation of the Fisheries Plan.

C. The L.A.C., in consultation with the Fisheries Subcommittee, will make recommendations when more information is available regarding:

1. The evaluation of results from the new enhancement sites.

2. The stream enhancement of primary production study results.

OLDMAN RIVER DAM CITIZENS' COMMITTEES



APPENDIX A